17th March, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you know, we are experiencing extraordinary times. We need the whole community to pull together to support each other; I have no doubt we will do this.

In line with government advice, pupils/students and staff are asked to stay at home for **14 days if they or another person in the household have** either a high temperature (37.8 degrees and above) or a new, continuous cough. This will help to protect others in the community while they are infectious. The government has advised that, if a person has these symptoms, they should not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. They **do not** need to contact NHS 111 as the NHS will not be testing people who are self-isolating with mild symptoms. The **government** is clear that, if a pupil/student or a member of staff is in self-isolation, they:

- **must** stay at home.

- **must not** go to public areas, and **must not** use public transport or taxis.

- **cannot** go for a walk.

We ask you to use your judgement and thank you, in advance, for your co-operation regarding the above. Absences will not be authorised if a child is simply kept at home without displaying any symptoms or is seen in public as this does not follow the government guidelines.

We have again gone through the following hand washing regime with the children today…..

**The key advice remains as follows:**

**Do:**

* wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds.
* always wash your hands when you get home or into work.
* use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
* cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze.
* put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards.
* try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.

**Do not:**

* touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.

We have, and will continue to, teach students how to wash their hands correctly. Soap and sanitisers are available throughout the school and staff are being proactive in ensuring that children are protected.

You will be aware that schools in many countries have been closed. The UK government has not taken this action as yet. Indeed, media reports indicate that schools may be forced to stay open even when Principals think there is good reason to close. However, this could change and we are developing contingency plans to deal with such a situation. **The following is**

**planned in the event of forced closures:**

Subject to IT availability and performance, all students will be expected to login to live streaming of lessons. We will send out further information about how to do this in the coming days/weeks.

Staff **will** take registers and contact **will** be made with parents/carer if a student is not in the streaming session at the arranged time. Work for all classes will be set on BKSB and MyMaths. This **MUST** be completed and emailed to the teacher. Website addresses/ logins and passwords have already been sent to parents and pupils/students. Obviously, the work will be age appropriate. Any links to videos etc will be on the platform.

If you do not have access to a computer/smartphone or internet availability, please contact school by 20th March and we will try to support you. It is very important to stress that, even in the event of a forced closure, **your child will need to continue to work as if they are in school**.

If your child is unwell, please telephone school in order for us to record the absence on the first day of being ill.

They will then be exempt from the above work. We will notify you of any change to school telephone numbers if the need arises.

I hope you recognise that the above actions are being taken in the **best interests of your child and family**. We would not want them to be disadvantaged by this awful situation and will try our hardest to ensure this is the case. This is a very different scenario to one-off closures (such as snow days) as every indication is that, if schools do have to close, it will be for weeks if not months. We hope this will not be the case.

Once again, I thank you, in anticipation, for your support in these extraordinary times.

If a closure does occur please use our contact numbers as a support line for your child if they are struggling with their emotional health. You will have also received a letter relating to online and education at home. Your child has been allocated a member off staff who will contact through our online portal or via the phone on a daily basis at 11.00. **Please ensure we have any updated contact details.**

Please continue to remember all coronavirus sufferers and their families in your thoughts and prayers, we wish all of our students and families peace and a speedy recovery if needed.

Yours sincerely

Emma & Melanie

Principals at Intuition